

157 The women are virtuous and faithful and perform all the duties of
 152 wife and mother and bear their share of hardships. The hard life,
 [145] exposure and struggle for existence soon causes hard features, wrinkles
 [165] and ugliness. Many babies die young and the tribe probably numbers
 only about two hundred.

[167] The dancing by the driftwood fires continued as we turned in to
 123 rest, our eyes constantly drawn to the flame and the glittering eyes
 in the wild dark faces, while the waves of the sea accompanied the
 chanting in that mysterious isle of Seriland.

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Seris - off to the fishing grounds - December 1934.
 Alcatraz Island in distance.

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In Seriland most of the food comes from the sea. During April and May, at the time of my first visit, a green grass growing on the sea bottom was detached and washed ashore. The women dragged it up on the bank near camp and spread it out to dry. Some of the stalks contained about seven fine green seeds the size of a pin head. When dry, the women threshed them out with sticks on a piece of canvas. These are
 [285] cleaned by the deft use of the *bates*, or winnowing basket, of which these people are pastmasters.

252 A pint of these fine seeds were parched in an olla over coals of
 262 driftwood and constantly stirred to prevent burning. It was then ground
 on a flat rock like a *metate*---any flat rock---into a green meal which
 was very nourishing. This was cooked in an olla with turtle oil, making
 a porridge like thick green paint. It was then drunk or eaten with the
 fingers. If there is plenty, two fingers are used; if not, only one
 finger.



Fig. 1. Area of Present Seri Occupation

One descendant of this band states that long ago his ancestors wandered north from the region of Guaymas. Eventually, they established land rights to the coastal area extending from Campo Ona on the south to Puerto Lobos on the north. Before long, however, they relinquished claim to the area between Campo Ona and Punta Tepopa.

It is to be understood, of course, that groups from this band, as well as groups from other bands, at times ranged far afield from their respective territories. Band I, for instance, had campsites as far north as the mouth of the Colorado River.

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- [167] Little information could be elicited about subdivisions 7, 8,
[628] 9, and 10. The reason for this might be that Band VI was slow in
abandoning those coastal areas (if it actually did inhabit them)
as it was being displaced by Bands III and IV.

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The Seri say that long ago several men, called ?ant i?akimhoh "they who explain the land," came to Tiburon Island and told the people along the eastern shore that they owned also a corresponding strip of land on the mainland. Thus the inhabitants of subdivisions 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 laid claim to the coastal areas directly across the channel from them as shown by the dotted lines on Fig. 4. They assumed that their new territories extended inland to include as much terrain as they chose to claim. At first the people went to their mainland areas primarily to gather cactus fruit. Eventually some of them remained on the mainland and established subdivisions 11 and 12. This establishment superseded the claims of the five Tiburon Island subdivisions to their mainland territories. Although the mainland subdivisions 11 and 12 formed, in some respects, a separate band in their own right, they retained their name, ta?eowkw kongkaak "the people of Tiburon Island." Eventually this group returned to Tiburon.

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Of subdivisions 13 and 14 which are shown on Fig. 4, very little is known. The people of subdivision 13 inhabited an area encompassing the northern end of the dry lake, La Playa Noriega (San Bartolo). Some of the Seri believe that these people were giants. Although in this area I have found clay figurines and other artifacts common to abandoned camps elsewhere, the Seri do not know the names of the camps of this subdivision. Subdivision 14 occupied the area surrounding the southern end of the same dry lake.

[167]

Subdivision 15 occupied the general area which is now Villa de Seris, a settlement on the southern edge of Hermosillo. As Hermosillo grew, it became increasingly difficult for these Seri to maintain their customary way of life, and they eventually returned to Tiburon Island.

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BAND VI

Band VI became divided into four subdivisions, the names of which are:

xnitom

pahii

kofte oki ifa

kotih

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"flint"

"large iguana peninsula"

"tubular"